(d) and (e) There is a provision for registration under OYT-Spl category for non resident Indians and foreign Nationals of Indian origin repatriating to India if they surrender foreign exchange equivalent to 2000 American Dollars to the Government of India through the authorised banks. OYT-spl category gets priority in the matter of installtion over OYT general category.

Security aspect of the Telecom Policy

1919. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fully examined the security aspect of the Telecom Policy, if so, what provisions have been made to safeguard the defence security system; and

(b) whether Government have also finalised its stand on special duty concessions on import of finished equipment by foreign participants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The need for providing adequate safeguard concerning security aspect will be kept in view while finalising and implementing the various provisions of the New Telecom Policy.

(b) No such decision has been taken, nor is there any such proposal under consideration at present.

Delay in the Launching of First Private Satellite communication service

1920. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the launching of country's first private satellite communications service has been seld up to differences over the inter-connectivity with the existing data network and licence fee between the Telecommunications Department and the prospective operaters.

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the prospective VSAT operators and whether they have asked DOT to provide inter-connectivity with the existing network in the form of I-net, if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what is DOT's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Department has already issued letters of intent to seven companies for 64 KBPS Data Service via Satellite and three Companies have already submitted the required first year licence fee. One company has signed the licence agreement and another two companies will be signing the same shortly. The licence fee, for the first two years, has been reduced from Rs. 15 crores to Rs. 1 crore per year and the inter-connectivity with existing DOT Network (I-NET) is allowed. It is expected that country's first private satellite communication service will be launched in due time i.e. within 12 months from the date of signing of the agreement.

(c) and (d) The names of the prospective VSAT operators with current status on their proposals are given in the Statement (See below) enclosed herewith. (see below) Some of the operators had requested to DOT to provide inter-connectivity with its existing Data network i.e. I-NET, which has, since been accepted by the Department.